

IN THE CLAIMS:

RECEIVED
CENTRAL FAX CENTER

SEP 20 2007

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (currently amended) An apparatus for physical detection and tracking of devices on a computer network, the apparatus comprising:

 a processor, for executing executable data structures; and
 a memory device operably connected to the processor for storing the executable data structures and associated operational data structures, the executable and operational data structures comprising:

 a reporting module configured to query a network infrastructure device selected from the group consisting of a switch, router, and hub and obtain end point connection information corresponding to a first network device, the end point connection information comprising connection table information identifying a port through which the first network device connects to the network infrastructure device; and

 a correlation module configured to associate the end point connection information corresponding to the first network device to a location identifier corresponding to a physical location.

2. (canceled)

3. (original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the reporting module further comprises a communication module configured to transmit the end point connection information to a central database.

4. (original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the reporting module further comprises an update module configured to detect a change of end point connection information corresponding to the first network device.

5. (original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the reporting module further comprises an inventory module configured to detect a second network device local to the first network device and obtain end point connection information corresponding to the second network device.

6. (original) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a monitoring module configured to receive end point connection information from the reporting module.

7. (original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the correlation module further comprises a device recognition module configured to identify the nomenclature of the first network device based on product recognition records.

8. (original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the reporting module further comprises an inventory module configured to detect and transmit software and hardware configuration information corresponding to the first network device.

9. (original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the reporting module further comprises an inventory module configured to detect and transmit software and hardware configuration information corresponding to a second network device.

10. (currently amended) An article of manufacture comprising a computer-readable memory containing data structures for programming a computer, the data structures comprising:

a reporting module configured to query a network infrastructure device selected from the group consisting of a switch, router, and hub and obtain end point connection information corresponding to a first network device, the end point connection information comprising connection table information identifying a port through which the first network device connects to the network infrastructure device; and

a correlation module configured to associate the end point connection information corresponding to the first network device to a location identifier corresponding to a physical location.

11. (canceled)

12. (currently amended) The article of claim 10, wherein the reporting module further comprises a communication module configured to transmit the end point connection information to a central database.

13. (original) The article of claim 12, wherein the reporting module further comprises an update module configured to detect a change of end point connection information corresponding to the first network device.

14. (original) The article of claim 13, wherein the reporting module further comprises an inventory module configured to detect a second network device local to the first network device and obtain end point connection information corresponding to the second network device.

15. (original) The article of claim 14, further comprising a monitoring module configured to receive end point connection information from the reporting module.

16. (original) The article of claim 15, wherein the correlation module further comprises a device recognition module configured to identify the nomenclature of the first network device based on product recognition records.

17. (original) The article of claim 16, wherein the inventory module is further configured to detect and transmit software and hardware configuration information corresponding to the first network device.

18. (original) The article of claim 16, wherein the inventory module is further configured to detect and transmit software and hardware configuration information corresponding to the second network device.

19. (currently amended) A method for physical detection and tracking of devices on a computer network, the method comprising:

identifying a computer network comprising a plurality of devices;
identifying a first device of the plurality of devices configured to automatically collect,
store, and update connection table information mapping interconnectivity between the plurality
of devices;

querying a network infrastructure device to obtain end point connection information
corresponding to a first network device the first device to obtain end point connection
information corresponding to a second device of the plurality of devices, the end point
connection information comprising a portion of the connection table information identifying a
port through which the a second device connects to the first device;

reporting the end point connection information to a central database; and
associating the end point connection information corresponding to the first network
device to a location identifier corresponding to a physical location and the location known to be
serviced by the port to determine the physical location of the second device.

20. (canceled)

21. (currently amended) The method of claim 19, wherein the central database comprises device records storing end point connection information corresponding to network devices multiple devices of the plurality of devices.

22. (currently amended) The method of claim 19, further comprising detecting a change of end point connection information corresponding to the first network device and updating the central database to reflect the change.

23. (currently amended) The method of claim 19, further comprising detecting a second network device third device of the plurality of devices local to the first network second device and obtaining end point connection information corresponding to the second network third device.

24. (currently amended) The method of claim 19, further comprising identifying a nomenclature of the first network second device based on product recognition records stored in the central database.

25. (currently amended) The method of claim 19, further comprising detecting software and hardware configuration information corresponding to the first network second device.

26. (currently amended) The method of claim 25, further comprising transmitting the software and hardware configuration information corresponding to the first network second device to the central database.

27. (currently amended) The method of claim 19, further comprising detecting software and hardware configuration information corresponding to a ~~second network device~~ third device of the plurality of devices.